

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7232

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 0378

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ALL ARA POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PORG, PFOR, VE

SUBJ: FORMATION OF NEW HEMISPHERE LABOR ORGANIZATION

1. CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV) SOURCES REPORT PRIVATELY TO LABATT THAT THEY WILL BE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEXICAN LABOR CENTRAL (CTM) IN EARLY FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS FORMATION OF A SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION TO THE INTER-AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS (ORIT). THESE TALKS WOULD BE A FOLLOW-UP TO INITIAL CONTACTS MADE BY VENEZUELAN LABOR LEADER MANUEL PENALVER DURING THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION'S (ILO) DECEMBER MEETING IN MEXICO. CURRENT CTV THINKING IS THAT THE MEETING WITH THE CTM WOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE OTHER MAJOR HEMISPHERE LABOR MOVEMENTS (U.S., COLOMBIA, ARGENTINA, AND PROBABLY OTHERS) IN LATE FEBRUARY. THE CTV DEFINITELY WANTS AN ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE U.S., ARGENTINA AND CANADA. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LABATT, CTV OFFICIALS DENY ANY INTENTION OF INCLUDING CUBA IN A NEW REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, CITING CUBAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU) AS A MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK. THEY SEEM CONVINCED THAT A FORMULA WILL BE FOUND TO AVOID PROBLEMS CAUSED BY AFL-CIO NON-MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU). THE NEW ORGANIZATION WOULD BE AFFILIATED WITH THE ICFTU.

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2. COMMENT: CTV UNHAPPINESS WITH ORIT HAS BEEN APPARENT FOR
SOME TIME. THE CTV IS PARTICULARLY UPSET BY ARGENTINA'S (CGT)
NON-MEMBERSHIP. THIS GENERALIZED UNHAPPINESS APPEARS TO BE
CRYSTALIZING INTO CONCRETE ACTION TO FORM A SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION
TO ORITY.
MILLS

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